

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-11 and 14-22 are now in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 12-13 have been cancelled. Claims 17-22 have been added. Claim 17 is withdrawn from consideration (see paragraph below).

Newly added claim 17 recites the subject-matter recited in the body of (non-elected) claim 12 as originally filed. Claim 17 is hereby withdrawn from consideration in view of the restriction requirement made in the Office action dated January 7, 2002.

Newly added claim 18 recites a feature ("coupling device") previously recited in claim 1.

Support for the subject-matter of claims 19-22 can be found in the claims as originally filed.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 2, 14, and 16 have been rejected as being anticipated by *Pensavecchia* (US 5,660,108) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In the fourth paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 3-11 and 15 have been rejected as being obvious over
The rejections have been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in the third paragraph on page 7 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 (similarly claim 19) as amended calls for, inter alia:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder, and at least four printing devices assigned thereto;

a second printing machine having a second impression cylinder and a feeding device disposed immediately up-line of said second impression cylinder for feeding the sheets directly to said second impression cylinder; and

an adjusting device assigned to said feeding device, said feeding device being at least partially displaceable by said adjusting device for adjusting and correcting registration of said feeding device.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that *Pensavecchia* "teaches the detailed structure of a modular printing machine Each of the printing unit also has its own feeding device and an adjusting

device assigned for register correction of the sheet to the feeding device."

Pensavecchia is concerned with a common control system for linking various impression presses. The closest to an adjusting device in *Pensavecchia* might be the registration station 277. The registration station 277 is mentioned only twice in *Pensavecchia*, in the two sentences in col. 8, lines 8-16, which state:

In the illustrated embodiment, that mechanism includes an array of pulleys 262 that operate an endless belt 264 to carry paper sheets through a **registration station 277**. It should be stressed, however, that other feeder mechanisms of conventional design can be substituted.

After emerging from **station 277**, the registered sheets pass through the nip of a set of accelerating rollers 272a, 272b and are clamped to impression cylinder 222 as described above.

(emphasis added)

Hence, it is believed that *Pensavecchia* does not disclose (or suggest) an adjusting device assigned to a feeding device and arranged up-line of an impression cylinder for adjusting and correcting registration of a feeding device with the impression cylinder. Therefore, the invention as recited in claims 1 and 19 of the instant application is believed not to be anticipated by *Pensavecchia*.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Pensavecchia* does not show the features of claims 1 and 19. Claims 1 and 19 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and because claims 2-11 and 14-18 are ultimately dependent on claim 1 and since claims 20-22 are ultimately dependent on claim 19, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Considering the deficiencies of the primary reference *Pensavecchia*, it is believed not to be necessary at this stage to address the secondary references *Mueller et al.* and *Drapatsky et al.*, and whether or not there is sufficient suggestion or motivation with a reasonable expectation of success for modifying or combining the references as required by MPEP § 2143.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 and 14-22 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. Enclosed with this response on a separate sheet is a *Request for Continued Examination* (RCE). The RCE should be entered if this response does not place the application in condition for allowance without requiring further search or examination.

Appl. No. : 09/688,462

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

MARKUS NOLFF
REG. NO. 37,006

MN:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101

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Version with markings to show changes made:

Claim 1 (twice amended). A modular printing machine system for printing on sheets, comprising:

a first printing machine of satellite construction type having a central first impression cylinder, and at least four printing devices assigned thereto;

a second printing machine having a second impression cylinder and a feeding device disposed immediately up-line of said second impression cylinder for feeding the sheets directly to said second impression cylinder; and

[a coupling device for selectively coupling said first printing machine and said second printing machine to one another for in-line operation thereof, having a feeding device for transferring the sheets to the second impression cylinder, and at least one adjusting device assigned for register correction to said feeding device]

an adjusting device assigned to said feeding device, said feeding device being at least partially displaceable by said adjusting device for adjusting and correcting registration of said feeding device.